EB

RESTRICTED CIRCULATION

THIS PAPER IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT; IT IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND MUST NOT BE QUOTED IN ANY PRINTED PUBLICATION.

Agricultural Memorandum No. 794

Check of 1975 Hay Fever Forecast

L P Smith

The hay fever forecast was made on June 2nd 1975 implying a moderate season with a total pollen count about 3400 and with 23 days of counts over 50
and 12 days of counts over 100 starting on 9th June.

The seasonal severity was correct, but the actual accumulated daily pollen count was somewhat higher, 4,000.

The days of severe and very severe symptoms were almost exactly forecast, the occasions totalling 24 and 12; the start was on 8th June, one day earlier than expected.

The underestimate of pollen count was largely due to the very warm weather of June, with extremely high values on 3 occasions:-

June 14	320	
June 18	320	
June 21	350	

There were also two unusually high counts in the late season

July 26	130	(Kew max 25°C)
July 27	120	(Kew max 26°C)

Although the forecasting system appears to work satisfactorily for the season as a whole, it cannot foresee the peak daily counts which are a function of the weather of the day concerned.

Any comments or suggestions on this paper should be referred to the author.

Meteorological Office
Bracknell

March 1976